

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7157

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL FY'74 MEDIUM-TERM PLANNING FOR THE SAHEL

REF: STATE 26827

1. EMBASSY AND RDO HAVE FOUND REFTEL MOST HELPFUL AND ARE DRAWING ON IT EXTENSIVELY TO EXPLAIN HOW THE U.S. IS ANPROACHING THE PROBLEM OF PLANNING TO MEET SAHEL PROBLEMS. WE HAVE ALSO FOUND IT HELPFUL, AND PERHAPS OTHER POST WILL TOO, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH AFRICAN LEADERS, TO REFER TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR U.S. PARTICIPATION IN LONG-TERM PLANNING TO MEET SAHEL PROBLEMS, WHICH WAS INCLUDED IN THIS YEAR'S FOREIGN AID BILL. ALSO, HELPFUL FOR BACKGROUND ARE THOSE PORTIONS OF DON BRWON'S MEMCON OF HIS JANUARY16 MEETING WITH MINISTER DAKOURE WHICH DEAL WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION SITUATION.

2. RDO OUTLINED THE SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL ON FEBRUARY 13 WITH NIGER'S MINISTER OF COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. BEMBELLO FOUND EXPOSITION MOST HELPFUL, NOTING HIS SPECIAL PROBLEM OF COORDINATING AID FOR SEVERAL SOURCES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT'S PLANNING. EMBASSY AND RDO FEEL THAT BEMBELLO IS MAKING AN IMPORTANT POINT AND THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE U.S. NEEDS TO BE SENSITIVE TO THE FACT THAT THE

SAHELIAN COUNTRIES DO HAVE A PLANNING PROCESS UNDERWAY AND THAT OUR AID PLANNING PROCESS DOES NEED TO TAKE THE COUNTRY PROCESS INTO CAREFUL ACCOUNT IN THE COLLABORATIVE STYLE WHICH AID IS PURSUING.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE PLANNED TRIP OF THE COMBINED CWR-SAHEL TASK FORCE GROUP, BEMBELLO EWELCOMED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR VISIT AND STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD A NUMBER OF URGENT MEDIUM NEEDS IN THE AGRICULTURE (CROP AND LIVESTOCK) SECTOR WHICH IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH THE TEAM. DESPITE THIS STATEMENT, WE BELIEVE BEMBELLO AND HIS STAFF ARE HARD-PRESSED NOW TO RESPOND TO THE HEAVY PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING BURDEN BEING PLACED ON THE MINISTRY. WE FEEL THAT A VISIT BY THE U.S. PLANNING TEAM IN THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 19 AND MARCH 10, WHICH REFTEL SUGGESTS, IS SOMEWHAT EARLY FOR NIGER. WE WISH, THEREFORE, TO RECOMMEND THAT IF POSSIBLE THE TEAM SECHEULE THEIR VISIT TO NIAMEY IN THE LATTER PART OF MARCH. THIS WILL AT LEAST PERMIT US TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS OF PROGRAMMING THE R&R PROJECTS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY TAKING UP A GOOD DEAL OF BEMBELLO'S STAFF TIME. IT WILL ALSO HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF SCHEDULING THE TEAM AFTER THE ABIDJAN CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS SCHEDULED IN MID-MARCH. AND FINALLY, IT WILL GIVE THE EMBASSY AND AID STAFF MORE TIME TO PREPARE THE GROUND FOR THE TEAM'S VISIT.BUCHE

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